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Celebrating Christmas 1940s style

PAGE **5**

And the crowd went wild – jubilant scenes at the Dons' stadium as MK is named a World Cup host city – see page 2

Princess Charmless

Singer Amy Winehouse 'asked to leave' theatre pantomime performance

BY JESSICA CUNNIFFE

jessica.cunniffe@mk-news.co.uk

POLICE have launched an investigation after singer Amy Winehouse allegedly assaulted a member of staff at the pantomime.

The star reportedly hurled abuse at the cast of Cinderella at Milton Keynes Theatre on Saturday night before the alleged attack.

It is said that the stars, who include Mickey Rooney as Baron Hardup, were subjected to obscenities during the family-friendly show.

The theatre confirmed that a member of the audience was asked to leave part way through the performance.

Ms Winehouse, whose hits include Rehab and You Know I'm No Good, was cleared of assaulting a dancer at a charity ball earlier this year.

She had reportedly gone to Milton Keynes Theatre to see her friend Anthony Kavanagh play Prince Charming.

The 1990s pop star was filling in for boy band singer Ben Adams, starring alongside Fairy Godmother Anthea Turner, comedian Bobby Davro as Buttons and Louise Dearman in the title role.

Police were called to the theatre, during the 27th performance of a 75-show run, at 9.05pm, following reports that a 27-year-old man had been assaulted.

Theatre chief executive Elizabeth Adlington said: "I can confirm that on Saturday evening a member of the audience was asked to leave the building during a performance of Cinderella .

"As for as any further information regarding the alleged incident I cannot comment as it is being investigated by police.

"All of the staff at Milton Keynes Theatre acted appropriately according to our code of conduct."

Yesterday Thames Valley Police said no one had yet been questioned and they are still seeking witnesses to the attack.

A police spokesman said: "Officers were called to the Milton Keynes Theatre in Marlborough Gate, following reports that a man had been assaulted. No arrests have been made and the incident is being investigated."

Witnesses are asked to contact PC Tyrell Levitt at Milton Keynes Police Station via 0845 8 505 505, or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Several celebrities have been spotted at the panto since the run started including comedian Frank Skinner.

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Rivals now friends as MK joins World Cup host city elite

BY SIMONE CORGAN
simone.corgan@mk-news.co.uk

Dr Ann Limb hugs Pete Winkelman on hearing of MK's host city success

JUBILANT representatives from Milton Keynes attended a workshop at Wembley on Friday to be congratulated on becoming a host city for the 2018 football World Cup, and to find out the next steps in England 2018's bidding process.

Last Wednesday Lord Brian Mawhinney unveiled the 15 stadia England 2018 will use in their bid to FIFA and agonisingly he read Milton Keynes' stadiummk at the very end.

It sparked celebrations at the MK Dons stadium where the consortium that put together MK's bid were gathered awaiting the news.

On Friday Geoff Snelson, corporate director of strategy and partnerships at Milton Keynes Council and Andrew Cullen, group sales and marketing director from MK Dons joined representatives from the other 11 successful cities and were congratulated by Simon Johnson, the chief operating officer of the England 2018 bid team.

"Instead of being rivals with the other host cities, we are now working together to do all we can to bring the World Cup to England," said Mr Snelson.

"It was a very upbeat, positive meeting with lots of enthusiasm for the task ahead. For the first time we were able to talk together not as rivals, but as partners and it was great to be able to compare notes on the bidding process."

The Milton Keynes bid team will now examine how it can best link in with the England campaign and do all it can to support the national bid.

"Over the next few months the England team will be making pitches all over the world, and we have to determine how our local knowledge and expertise can be used to support the bidding process," Mr Snelson added.

Dons chairman Pete Winkelman will benefit with the stadium's capacity increasing to 43,044 if England are awarded the rights to the World Cup, but he pointed to the advantages it will bring to the city.

He said: "Ultimately it's very exciting because what it's going to show people in Milton Keynes is that this new city that they've come to live in to raise their families, is a proper place, they will part of the history of it going forward.

"They will be telling their grand kids, and their grand kids' grand kids about the time that the World Cup came to Milton Keynes."

Dr Ann Limb, chairman of the MK 2018 bid consortium, echoed his thoughts, she added: "It's a real landmark moment for Milton Keynes because 42 years ago there were three towns, 13 villages and fields and we built a fantastic city from nothing .I feel now we've come of age because we have been recognised for something that is bigger than we could have ever really dreamed of."

> We have so many different communities here, the unifying creed is football and we can mould our city together by building up to 2018 – Cllr Sam Crooks

An ecstatic John Lewis, chief executive of Milton Keynes Partnership, expects a 'massive boost' to the local economy but was unable to put a price tag on the impact the tournament will have.

Cllr Sam Crooks defended MK's selection and hit back at critics, he said: "We have so many different communities here, the unifying creed is football and we can mould our city together by building up to 2018.

"I hope the whole country will rally behind what I now see as a team of 15 stadiums and we will all work together to make that bid in time for May 10."

Mr Winkelman added: "Take us seriously we are a city in the making, we are prepared to make things happen and to be masters of our destiny.

"It's going to be a hugely exciting place to be for the next ten years and that's a great message for the growth agenda, that's brilliant for inward investment, it's massive for economic development."

There will be around 40 pages of information about Milton Keynes as a host city in the Bid Book being produced by England 2018, the company formed to lead England's bid to be part of the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

The Bid Book is submitted in May 2010, after which FIFA will assess the bids, before making a decision in December 2010.

Hosts in full

Sunderland - Stadium of Light, Birmingham - Villa Park, London - Wembley Stadium, Emirate's Stadium and either Olympic Stadium/the new White Hart Lane, Nottingham - the new Nottingham Forest stadium, Leeds - Elland Road, Sheffield - Hillsborough stadium, Newcastle - St James' Park, Bristol - new Ashton Vale stadium, Plymouth - Home Park, Manchester - City of Manchester Stadium, Old Trafford.

DON'T MISS OUT ON CHRISTMAS CASH FOR TRASH
SEE PAGE 17

THE demolition of the former National Hockey Stadium has begun.

Work started on dismantling the stadium on Thursday, December 17 and is due take eleven weeks.

Network Rail hopes to build a new national centre on the site, which is owned by Milton Keynes Partnership.

The stadium was the temporary home of the MK Dons until 2007.

Many items, including grandstand seats, changing room fixtures, office equipment, carpets, toilets and turnstiles have been donated to sports clubs in Milton Keynes and further afield.

Jail for driver who caused death of woman passenger

BY LAURA HANNAM
laura.hannam@mk-news.co.uk

A MAN who caused the death of a young mother by careless driving has been jailed for eight years.

Matthew Coyle, 39, was sentenced at Luton Crown Court on Friday after previously pleading guilty to the offence, as well as failing to supply a specimen for analysis and drugs charges.

On January 18, Coyle, of Bruckner Gardens, Old Farm Park, was driving a Ford Mondeo which struck a lorry on the A421 at the junction with Woburn Road, Lidlington.

Grace Banks-Clark, 27, of Manor Road, Marston Moretaine, was a rear seat passenger in the car and died after the collision.

The accident left her four-year-old daughter orphaned, as Miss Banks-Clark had previously lost her partner and brother in road accidents.

Matthew Coyle, who was driving Miss Banks-Clark and his girlfriend to a rave in Uxbridge on January 18, had taken drugs that day and had a stash of drugs concealed in the car which he admitted he would have supplied at the rave, said prosecutor Claudette Elliott.

After the crash the lorry driver involved saw Coyle 'messing about' inside the vehicle.

The judge said the inference was he was moving 14 bags of drugs from the car, which were later recovered from the scene. They were worth about £2,500.

Miss Elliott said Coyle admitted he was driving at about 40mph where the speed limit is 30mph and came up to the junction too fast, lost control and crashed into a lorry that was travelling towards Bedford.

He later admitted to police he had taken amphetamines and cannabis that day and tests on a hair sample showed he had taken heroin, cocaine and ecstasy during the previous few weeks.

Hugh Forgan, defending, said: "He is remorseful and accepts his responsibility, but no amount of remorse will put right what he has done. The burden bears heavily on him."

Coyle pleaded guilty to four charges of possessing drugs with intent to supply ecstasy, amphetamine, cannabis and cannabis resin, and possessing £1,000 cash from criminal activity.

He was jailed for four-and-a-half years for the driving offences with a further three-and-a-half years for the drugs offences.

He was also banned from driving for ten years.

Judge John Bevan QC told Coyle: "By the cruellest of ironies Miss Banks-Clark's daughter had already lost her father in a car accident when she was 18 months old. Nothing I can do can compensate for her death or the havoc wrought in this sad case.

"No sentence would be long enough for the family.

"You concede that you regularly drove under the influence of drugs which is an unattractive part of the background."

Dog dies after falling through lake ice

A DOG has died after being trapped under ice in a frozen lake.

Four fire crews and a water rescue unit were called to the incident at Emberton Country Park just after 4pm on Sunday.

Station manager Paul Harrison, who also attended, said: "On arrival the first crews found a very distressed member of the public whose dog had gone onto the frozen lake and through the ice.

"By the time we arrived the dog was already under the ice around 40 or 50 metres out in the lake.

"The crews deployed an inflatable rescue path and a rescue sledge and the water rescue technicians went out onto the ice and recovered the dog.

"Efforts were made to resuscitate it but were, unfortunately, unsuccessful."

Mr Harrison advised dog owners to keep their pets on a lead when near to frozen water to prevent this kind of incident.

He added that pet owners should not walk onto ice and put themselves in danger in attempting to rescue an animal.

He said: "It is obviously very dangerous at this time of year and I encourage members of the public, particularly children, not to play on frozen lakes and ponds."

MAKE DO AND MEND – A FORTIES CHRISTMAS
SEE PAGE 5

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GENERAL MANAGER

Jonathan Cropley
01908 242490
jonathan.cropley
@mk-news.co.uk

NEWSDESK

Editor: David Gale
01908 689595
david.gale
@mk-news.co.uk
Whether it's a story, picture, community, business, sports or leisure event, our newsdesk is waiting to hear from you
Newsdesk: 01908 689595Pictures: Andy Handley 01908 689586

ADVERTISING

Advertising manager: Gemma Dunne
01908 689589
gemma.dunne
@mk-news.co.uk

Classified advertising manager: Hazel Basford
01908 689555
hazel.basford
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Of the 95,500 copies circulated in Milton Keynes, we're the only newspaper to hand out 2,500 copies every Wednesday morning from 6.15am to commuters at MK Railway station. We're also the only local newspaper to put 8,000 copies into shops, offices, restaurants, bars, hotels, industrial areas and other public meeting places every week. We deliver bulk drops (10-100 copies each) to these places so that our newspaper can be read by local people and by people who live outside MK but are here for work or leisure reasons. We also supply 1,200 copies of MK NEWS to the main newsagents across the area each Wednesday which are bought by readers.
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MK LETTERS

Letters to The Editor, MK NEWS, 1 Diamond Court, Fox Milne, Milton Keynes MK15 0DU | letters@mk-news.co.uk

Listing is necessary to secure shopping centre

SIR – In the debate about listing the shopping centre, a simple question is often overlooked: Why has English Heritage applied to list it?

Because, according to the experts, it is endangered.

Locally, it's time to wake up and realise how our city centre is threatened. We have learned, from their own lips, that the current managers are blind to its outstanding architectural merit.

The chief executive Robert Goodman notoriously described it as 'nondescript and characterless'.

But recent planning applications are even more alarming. They reveal a management that seems willing to sacrifice the centre's unique character for short-term financial gain.

In his recent full-page ad in the local press, Robert Goodman claims that the management follows voluntary guidelines to protect the special features of the building. But guidelines are easily flouted.

According to the Twentieth Century Society, the agreement has been wrong from the start and has failed to protect a building of 'tremendous national importance' from poor quality development.

That is why two highly respected heritage organisations have appealed to the Minister of State for Media Culture and Sport to protect the building as a matter of urgency.

The management have had their chance and failed.

Our shopping centre is a superb, flexible and even expandable space for community and commercial activities.

Only listing will save this special blend within its green, airy, naturally-lit and practical envelope, for the good of us all.

Linda Inoki, leader of Xplain
Theo Chalmers, chairman of Urban Eden

Cup that cheers

SIR – Re the World Cup bid.

Well done to Pete and all involved in the bid, I was one who thought it was a mad idea to try, but well done to all... if you don't ask, you don't get.

Just ignore all the snide comments on the footballing message boards of those who don't think MK had the right to bid and be a host city.

Paul Harris
Sent by e-mail

Tsunami pride

SIR – Five years ago this Boxing Day the Asian tsunami unleashed a wave of almost unimaginable human suffering.

Hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives and millions were left struggling to survive a disaster the like of which none of us had ever seen.

The Red Cross was helping people on the ground within minutes of the wave striking and, in the UK, we launched an appeal to support the aid effort.

Support from the public was phenomenal and enabled us to mount our largest relief operation since the Second World War.

Across the country donations poured in from those who, moved by scenes of ordinary people battling to survive, gave whatever they could.

The challenges were unprecedented, the decisions incredibly difficult, but today I am extremely proud of what the Red Cross has achieved in helping rebuild people's lives and, more than that, building them back stronger.

On behalf of the Red Cross, and the millions of people we were able to help, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us.

It has been a long road to recovery, but now, five years on, our work is completed.

Thousands of families have been re-housed, sustainable livelihoods have been secured and communities are recovering and more resilient than they have ever been.

To find out more about how the money you gave has been used and the difference it has made to people's lives visit www.recoveringafuture.org.uk.

Sir Nick Young
Chief executive, British Red Cross

It's not just drunks who will benefit from Refuge

SIR – I read with disgust your main letter dated last week from a person who clearly hasn't had a social life for at least 20 years judging by his or her media-fuelled opinion of young people who enjoy going out of a night and having a few drinks.

I go out with my friends a couple of times a month and, realistically, it's a minimum number of people who cause the problems that occur on nights out.

Does the ketter writer not realise that it's not just irresponsible drunks who become victims of those few who cause problems?

I personally think that it's great that the Refuge has been set up for nights out, you can't always get to a bar to get water when pubs and bars are busy, you certainly wouldn't get first aid in a bar.

I've had a bottle thrown at my head on a night out and had to leave because there was no help and I was just an innocent bystander.

An extremely drunk young lady clumsily stamped on my foot with one of her sparkly stilettos leaving my foot battered and, once again, had to go home early.

A couple of times in the last few years I've had to nurse friends who have had their drinks spiked (lucky for them I am a just-qualified nurse and as a student had some idea of what to do).

I find that every time charity is offered to young people there is some miserable middle-aged person who boo-hoos it and it's more than likely they believe everything they see in the news.

If everyone took this stance there would be no charity for anyone because, let's face it, there will always be someone who takes advantage of charity.

On another note, as a nurse I may well be looking after some of these people on Christmas Day, whether they are responsible for their actions or not – and in a completely non-judgemental way.

Why can't more people look further than what the media has to say?

Miss J Langford
Bradwell Common

True gritters

SIR – It is not very often my husband, Clifford (AKA Victor Meldrew) has something good to say about the council, but on this occasion he has.

Full marks to the gritter team for getting round on the latest freeze.

He says whoever sorted this out 'you get ten out of ten from this old boy'.

Anita Rose,
Church Lees, Great Linford

Ince the wrong man

SIR – Mr Winkelman should walk before he tries to run.

Instead of big ideas and trying to promote the stadiummk, he should put his efforts into getting a decent football team to play there every other Saturday and also a decent manager.

Paul Ince thought he was bigger than MK Dons in his move to Blackburn Rovers.

He couldn't get the success he craved got sacked.

What an earth was Mr Winkelman thinking about bringing him back here?.

Rose
Downs Barn

Thanks for gifts

SIR – Safer MK would like to thank local people for their overwhelming generosity in donating Christmas gifts to the campaign for women and children in local domestic violence refuges.

There has been a huge response, with children's toys, clothes, books and toiletries being donated at the three drop off points.

On behalf of women in our domestic abuse refuges, I would like to say an enormous thank you to people in Milton Keynes for their amazing generosity. Women and their children in our refuges will each have a gift to unwrap on Christmas morning.

Making the decision to leave an abusive home is very difficult; Christmas can be especially challenging. It is helpful for women to know that people are thinking of them at this time.

Women escaping domestic violence usually leave their homes with few possessions. They don't have extra clothes, toiletries or toys for their children.

We have had so many donations, there is more than enough to give every woman and child a Christmas gift. The extra donations, especially clothing and toiletries, will be invaluable.

Refuges provide a safe house for women and children where they can live free from violence and abuse. They offer temporary accommodation, as well as help and support to those fleeing a violent home. Between April 2008 and March 2009, Milton Keynes refuges provided a safe haven to 103 women and 111 children.

If you are being abused by someone close to you, or are worried about someone who is, please call MK ACT on 0844 375 4307 or visit www.safermk.com for support and advice.

Caroline Knowles,
SaferMK Domestic Violence co-ordinator

Traditional Christmas

SIR – My faith has been restored in the true meaning of Christmas after spending a wonderful afternoon at Milton Keynes Museum.

Fed up with the commercialisation of the festive season, I thought all was lost until I experienced what they have to offer there, which includes a Victorian street and transport display. The museum does its best to put the traditional feel back into Christmas with roasted chestnuts, mulled wine and general good cheer.

Mr B Jones, Newport Pagnell

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The odd couple – living the life of a 40s family

SEVERAL years ago my husband Craig and I let our interest in the 1930s and 40s turn from a hobby into a passion.

Known as Harry and Edna, we live a retro lifestyle, but have never previously imposed the restrictions of a 1940s regime on our family Christmas.

But last year we wanted to know if a Christmas with materially less is in fact more enjoyable.

Our extended family already think we are a little odd by living out our 1940s fantasy all year round but when we actively tried to stop people buying us presents they really could not get to grips with this.

As much as we tried to explain the 'no presents' request was not because we want to become partners in Marley and Marley but because on reflection we thought Christmas was really about the prince of peace rather than presents.

After all, there is only so much tat eBay can dispose of.

But for those members of family who insist on buying presents, we asked them to purchase something edible.

Our seasonal experiment started well as we worked with our children making Christmas cards from scrap card, Christmas tree decorations created from pinecones and tissue paper.

We even used sweet wrappers which I had been hoarding from the previous months to embellish our decorations.

Our front door garland was fashioned from newspapers and holly, finished off with a dusting of Epsom salts to add a little sparkle.

We fully expected to get a telling off from the local air raid warden as even our Anderson shelter (we have one in our back garden) had Christmas lights on it.

We used real holly to decorate around the house and my daughter made the Christmas crackers.

However we found the life expectancy of our homemade crackers was approximately three days before little fingers managed to dissect them.

From each corner of the rooms hung homemade paper chains which we put up with pride, feeling smug that no one else in our street had readable decorations.

As for our planned wartime rations Christmas dinner, there was rebellion in the ranks.

I followed a wartime recipe and made mock goose/turkey out of onion, apple, parsnip and sausage meat.

It tasted surprisingly seasonal but one thing was for certain, there was not a feather in sight with this meal.

This did have its advantages as for the first time ever I did not need to take out the oven shelves to cram an overstuffed bird into the oven, hoping a stray turkey leg would not be sticking out of the oven door.

The one problem I did not expect in with our rations-based Christmas dinner was our family's reaction. They conspired to sneak in black market foods. Someone brought a dessert and someone else bought the crackers.

With the no-television rule, I feared the family would be staring at an empty corner of the room were the TV once stood. But instead we introduced our children to parlour and board games.

Then as soon as the day starts it is all over. In-laws gone, children asleep in bed, it was finally time to relax with a cup of tea next to the open fire and reflect on our retro Christmas.

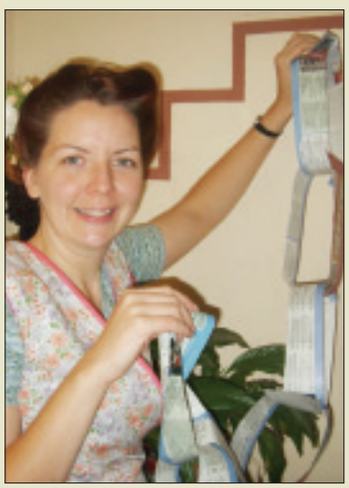
We did make some compromises. We still bought our children some of the modern toys they wanted and the house was lit up like Sydney Harbour Bridge on New Year's Day.

But in true 1940s spirit we fashioned our decorations from newspapers and our Christmas crackers where made using old loo roll tubes.

The television was banned and we all played games together while enjoying a little alcoholic festive cheer when the King's (or rather, the Queen's) speech came on the wireless.

At the end of it, my husband and I sat down, with our feet up and listened to Bing Crosby on the gramophone. I swear you would have thought it was 1940 again.

When wartime lifestyler Amanda Pickard received her nephew's Christmas list by text message she wondered if it would be possible to recapture the joy of Christmas past by re-creating a retro Christmas. She told MK NEWS how the Old Stratford family fared celebrating festivities in a 1940s fashion



Amanda and Craig Pickard with Molly

FIND CINDER'S SLIPPER AND WIN FAMILY PANTO TICKETS
SEE COMPETITION ON PAGE 6

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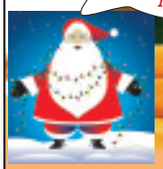

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COMPETITION

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■ Cinderella is showing at Milton Keynes Theatre until Jan 17. Book your tickets on 0844 871 7652 or visit www.ambassadortickets.com /miltonkeynes

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is tell us where the slipper is in Milton Keynes in this picture. Send you answers to competitions@mk-news.co.uk Closing date Monday, December 28. First correct answer drawn out of the hat wins. Editor's decision is final.

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Follow the leader: Students from across the city who attended a council three-day leadership programme

City students show leadership qualities

STUDENTS across the city have been showing they have what it takes to be leaders.

Pupils have been organising innovative activities and projects for their peers after taking part in a unique leadership programme run by Milton Keynes Council's extended services and the University of the First Age (UFA).

Fifty-four students from Oakgrove, Lord Grey, The Hazeley and Shenley Brook End schools, as well as 30 students from Re-Academy Youth Group in Grange Farm are the latest pupils to successfully graduate.

The three-day programme aims to raise students' aspirations and achievements by improving confidence and self-belief through exciting, innovative and memorable educational experiences.

At the end of the course, students are awarded £300 to take what they've learnt back to school and lead projects.

At Shenley Brook End students have organised a 'Learning 2 Lead' after-school club.

It is aimed at Year 9 and 10 students who have been elected by their peers as part of the school council or one of its sub-committees. The student leaders are running fun interactive sessions to develop confidence, team work and other skills needed to lead others. Another group of students are working with a member of staff in the science department to develop an environmental garden.

At Oakgrove the UFA leaders have been working hard to create and organise a 10 week dance club for students.

The Dance Off (TDO) gives students the choice of learning two dance styles. At the end of the course groups in each style will compete against each other in a dance off. The winning group will perform in each year group assembly.

Three Year 12 students and one Year 11 student will take on the role of dance teachers for the TDO, which will start in January 2010.

At The Hazeley students are planning to use the leadership skills they have learnt at UFA in 'lifeskills' lessons to promote self-confidence and team building, particularly with the Year 7 students, helping them with the transition into secondary school.

Students at Lord Grey plan to run a music workshop for their feeder primary schools.

They will spend their money on instruments and external music teachers.

The project will involve the students speaking in front of large groups of pupils which will continue to build their confidence.

Students at Re-Academy are planning two projects for the next half-term break.

All students who took part in the UFA programme this term officially graduated at a ceremony in the council chamber last week.

MK Mayor Cllr Euan Henderson awarded students with hoodies and a UFA badge.

Alex Holmes, national anti-bullying campaigner, also showed an inspiring film of his own personal experience of leadership.

Alex recently won the Pride of MK Award for Safer MK.

Mandy Legg, extended services study support co-ordinator and UFA partnership manager for Milton Keynes Council said: "The work the students have done on their projects is brilliant.

"They have been really creative and will give some great learning opportunities to their peers. It was a challenge for them to stand up and speak at the graduation event but they put across their ideas very clearly and confidently."

The council's extended services are encouraging schools to sign up for future Student Leadership and UFA courses.

■ For more information contact Mandy Legg Study Support Co-ordinator 01908 25 2447 or log on to:www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/extended-schools

Man jailed for raping 17-year-old girl

A MAN has been jailed for a minimum of seven years for raping a 17-year-old girl.

Omar Omar, 39, of Conniburrow Boulevard, was sentenced at Huntingdon Crown Court on December 18 after being found guilty of rape on Friday, November 6. He cannot be considered for release until he is no longer a danger to women and will be put on the sex offenders register for life.

When he is released from prison he will be deported back to Somalia.

Omar has also been issued with a Sex Offenders Prevention Order banning him from having any unsupervised contact with women under the age of eighteen in the UK.

The conviction relates to an incident which occurred in Milton Keynes on May 3, 2008.

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Jane Sowerby of the British Disabled Ski Team

Skiiers hope calendar will raise cash for Paralympics

BY LAURA HANNAM
laura.hannam@mk-news.co.uk

THE British Disabled Ski Team is calling for funds to help it reach the Winter Paralympics.

The country's elite team, which trains at the Sno!zone in Xscape, Central Milton Keynes during the summer months, is suffering from a shortfall in the funding it needs to reach its best performance for the games in Vancouver in March 2010.

In order to help raise money the team have put together a calendar for 2010 featuring photographs of its athletes in action. In the last four years the British team has gone from 24th in the world to reaching the top 10.

Jane Sowerby, a member of the British Disabled Ski Team, started sit-skiing with help from Milton Keynes-based charity the Spinal Injuries Association and Adaptive Snowsports Milton Keynes (ASMK), after breaking her back in a fall and losing the use of her legs in 2003.

She is currently the third best female sit skier in Europe.

Miss Sowerby, from Ampthill in Bedfordshire, said: "People expect that because we are the British team we get Government funding. We do get some but this does not cover even half of the costs.

"It is an expensive sport and we are competing against Alpine nations like Austria and Canada that have a better support network. Each member of the team needs around £25,000 for a season and most of this comes out of our pockets, with support from family or from sponsorship."

"If we don't raise enough there is a risk of not being able to get to the Paralympics."

The money raised by the calendar will also help the team pay for a ski technician, whose expertise in the mechanics of skiing would enable the athletes to reach their full potential on the slopes.

jane added: "It really could make the difference between a podium finish or not."

The team are also looking for sponsorship from businesses.

■ To buy a calendar for £7 (including postage) visit www.justgiving.co.uk/Britishdisabledskiteam2010

■ Find out more about the team and how you can support them visit www.britishdisabledskiteam.co.uk

Porcelain collection stolen in burglary

POLICE are trying to recover a collection of figurines that were stolen from a house in Newport Pagnell.

Sixteen Royal Doulton, Coalport and Royal Worcester figurines, many limited editions, were stolen from the house in Welland Drive while the owner was away on holiday.

A neighbour noticed the front door open and reported the burglary to police on November 27.

Also taken was a 50-year-old diamond engagement ring which had been given to the victim by her aunt.

DC Sam Reynolds, investigating, said: "The victim collected the figurines over a period of 20 years.

"Many of them are limited editions and are numbered; this number is unique to each one so they are easy to identify.

"The victim is extremely upset that the collection, which she spent years building up, has been taken from her.

"I would ask members of the public who may recently have bought a figurine like the ones described, to check this list and make sure you haven't been sold one from the stolen collection.

"I would urge anyone who thinks they may have bought one of the figurines or been offered one to contact the police so the victim can start to rebuild her collection."

List of missing figurines includes, Coalport 'Nell Gwynn', Coalport 'Lillie Langtry', Coalport 'Emerald', Coalport 'Sapphire', Coalport 'Lady Alice', Royal Worcester 'Royal Debut', Royal Doulton 'Sophie', Coalport 'Flamenco' numbered 553.

Royal Doulton 'Lady of the year 1999', Royal Worcester 'Sarah' numbered 321.

Coalport 'Lady Helena' numbered 11319, Coalport 'Lady Harriet – The Skater' numbered 11362, Royal Worcester 'Midnight Encounter' numbered 185, Royal Worcester 'Zoe' – numbered 20,Royal Worcester 'Gypsy Princess' numbered 248, Royal Worcester 'Joy'.

■ If you have any information about the stolen figurines, call Det Con Reynolds on 0845 8 505 505 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

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Turner winner is an MKG 'old boy'

MILTON Keynes has a connection with the latest winner of the Turner Prize.

This year's winner of the Tate's prestigious annual Award, Richard Wright, held a solo show at Milton Keynes Gallery nine years ago.

The Gallery's first director Stephen Snoddy commissioned Richard to make a wall drawing for the Cube Gallery space, responding to the gallery's architecture.

Wright's drawing process falls between action painting and site-specific installation.

He produced a large, red, geometric design, right, with a perspectival effect that 'punctured' the flatness of the gallery wall and was suggestive of the seating in the auditorium of adjacent MK Theatre.

Katharine Sorensen, the gallery's communications director, said: "Milton Keynes Gallery marked its 10th anniversary this autumn. I think people in MK can take pride in the fact that ever since we opened the gallery it has been presenting exhibitions of international contemporary art of the highest calibre – all free of charge.

"This includes talented emerging artists such as Richard Wright, Phil Collins, Cathy Wilkes and Roger Hiorns, all of whom have been shortlisted for the Turner Prize since showing here.

"And the connection with the Turner Prize continues as our current Director Anthony Spira has programmed artist Mark Leckey, winner of the 2008 Turner Prize, to show new and recent work here from April to June next year."

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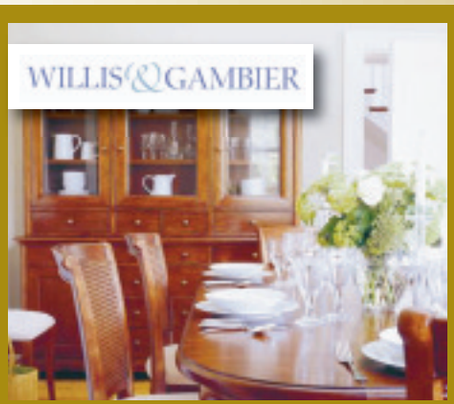

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New chief to lead Bucks Fire Service

BY LAURA HANNAM
laura.hannam@mk-news.co.uk

THE fire service is to welcome a new leader to its helm in the New Year.

Mark Jones will join Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service as chief fire officer and chief executive on January 1 following his appointment earlier this year.

He leaves Essex County Fire & Rescue Service where he is currently deputy chief fire officer.

Mr Jones first joined the fire service in Grampian, Scotland in 1985 and has served in a variety of command roles.

Giving his first impressions of his new command, Mr Jones said: "Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service has a great tradition of delivering high quality safety services to the people we serve.

New fire boss: Mark Jones

"I already see dedicated staff, working hard to maintain that position and I would pay tribute to my predecessors, particularly the current interim chief fire officer, Bill Feeley.

"Looking forward, all publicly funded services in England are likely to face severe funding challenges in future years and I know that the fire service will have to 'cut its cloth' in making sure we are able continue to deliver high quality safety services.

"The members of Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority have shown me their desire for significant improvement in the way we manage the service, whilst at the same time keeping up the high standard of safety services that we deliver.

"My main emphasis will continue to be to ensure that public safety remains as high as ever whilst seeking to lower costs.

"I am also keen to ensure that high quality professional governance is established under my guidance."

More free mental health education courses

A CHARITY that helps people conquer their mental health issues has added more dates to its educational programmes.

Following the recent success of the launch of educational courses run by Milton Keynes charity Climb Your Mountain, three more dates have been announced.

The day course covers topics include understanding more about depression, stress and anxiety, the benefits of physical exercise and nutrition, barriers to wellbeing, work/life balance and confidence building.

David Lloyd Leisure will host the sessions on Saturday, January 9 and Saturday, January 23 from 9.30am-4pm.

The Spinal Injuries Association in Oldbrook will host a course on Friday, January 29 from 10am-4pm.

Email info@climbyourmountain.org or call Charlie on 01908 231275 to register or visit the website www.climbyourmountain.org

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Luke wants a big boy bike

SANTA has been very busy at the-centre:mk

The Big Top Christmas Show has been running at the shopping centre since November 6.

In that time hundreds of people have contacted Santa either via traditional letters or through Santa's Facebook page.

Here is a selection of the requests made to Santa since the beginning of November.

Chantelle, Danielle and Tom from Middleton wrote to Santa and although they asked for simple presents including a solar butterfly and a reflective telescope they also said 'But if you can't get us any of the gifts please can you help everyone to have a great Christmas and Boxing Day as we have just lost our granddad and this will be our first Christmas without him'.

Luke from Wellingborough, whose only 18 months old, wrote to Santa asking for a big boy bike and hoping that his baby brother is born safely so he has someone to play with.

Luke's mummy has told him he is coming on January 2 but if he could come early it would be 'the best present ever'.

Finally, Luca from Bedford asked for a chemistry set and a Lego Star Wars Death Star but wisely advised Santa not to get too drunk with all the cherry brandies. Luca did say he would leave some milk and carrots for Santa's reindeers in case they were peckish.

Santa told MK NEWS: "Receiving Christmas wishes from children is my favourite part of my job.

"My elves are constantly on Facebook and along with the post box in Middleton Hall I've been inundated with letters. Even though I've been doing virtual grotto visits and posting weekly video blogs, all the same rules apply though. I've made my list; I've checked it twice and I've found out who's been naughty or nice. So, I'll look forward to seeing you all ASLEEP on Christmas Eve."

Santa's Grotto is open until Christmas Eve closing at 1pm but the train remains open until 5pm. Everything is closed on Christmas Day. The Big Top Christmas Show remains open until January 3.

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Students on track with bid

JUBILANT motor vehicle students from Milton Keynes College are to take part in nine prestigious UK touring car races after a Dragons' Den style pitch to secure funding.

They were looking to secure money for a project that will see them strip down a BMW to prepare it for a series of races taking place at various motorsport venues across the country, including Silverstone.

The students held their nerve in a darkened room and expertly fielded questions from three high-powered 'dragons' - members of the college's management team.

Chris Rice of MK College said: "They gave the judges a detailed breakdown of the costs, man hours and safety aspects involved, impressing the panel with their research.

"But the 'dragons' weren't to be won over easily, and asked a barrage of questions, which the students answered without hesitation."

The 13-strong team, (part of the college's highly popular vehicle technology motorsport course,) who will be working on the project, range in ages from 16 to 35 and will spend a total of 640 hours working on the car to get it race-ready.

Chris added: "The student team told the panel that MK would be the only college taking part in the prestigious race meetings, which will be watched by more than 60,000 motorsport fans in total.

"They also explained how they had secured sponsorship from Northampton-based AVO Suspension, Bletchley business Marlin Motor Engineers, and UPOL Paint & Body Supplies."

The judges – including college vice principal Rob Jones – were so impressed with the students' presentation skills and their extensive preparation that they were happy to fund the project. The races all take place next year.

Milton Keynes College motor vehicle students with a Formula 3-style car they created

Hot tips to keep you well in the cold

SOME health problems get more common or worse when the temperature drops.

NHS Milton Keynes has this message to local people to know how to keep themselves safe and healthy.

Everyone knows that conditions such as coughs, colds, flu and tummy bugs are much more common in the cold weather.

You can help prevent getting these illnesses by making sure you follow the 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It' mantra: use disposable tissues to catch your sneezes and put them in the bin to kill the virus.

Washing your hands regularly, either with soap and water or with an alcohol hand gel will also help protect your family against all the winter viruses, as well as swine flu.

Be prepared at home by making sure you have paracetamol for mild pain and fever, tissues for sniffly noses and warming soups to get valuable nutrients.

If you or a member of your family does get a cough, cold or tummy bug, remember that they are usually caused by viruses, which antibiotics can't cure.

Make your local pharmacist or NHS Direct (0845 4647 or www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk) your first port of call.

Dr Diane Gray, Deputy Director of Public Health said: "The cold weather is likely to bring with it typical winter illnesses. If you have a simple cold or tummy bug, stay away from your GP unless your symptoms don't improve after a few days.

It's best to stay at home, rest, keep warm and drink plenty of fluids."

Long-term conditions that affect your breathing, such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD) typically get worse during cold weather.

The cold can cause an exacerbation, or 'flare up' of the condition, which can lead to hospitalisation.

If you have COPD, you can help protect yourself by making sure you have adequate medication and be extra vigilant about making sure you take it.

You should also make sure you keep as warm as possible and wear a scarf over your mouth if you do have to go out.

People with COPD can also sign up to the Met Office Healthy Outlook system via your GP practice.

It provides a weekly COPD risk forecast looking at the weather ahead. When conditions in the environment are expected to make your symptoms worse, you can be contacted by an automated telephone message.

This advises you to make sure you have enough medicine, remind you what to do to stay well and encourage you to contact your GP if your symptoms are worse than normal.

WIN A MAKEOVER FOR MUM
SEE COMPETITION ON PAGE 20

Christmas cash comes early for lucky recyclers

WITH the Christmas season in full swing, the amount of food wasted increases by a massive 80 per cent and each person creates an extra 50 kilos of waste just over this short time.

By using your pink sacks, green bin and blue box to recycle correctly, you are doing your bit for the environment and we have celebrated your hard work every week of this year.

And as a special gift, from December 14-18, Milton Keynes Council Recycling team gave five lucky Milton Keynes residents each a fantastic prize for recycling correctly.

With over £1,500 in prizes including: skiing days, theatre tickets, cash and vouchers the council visited homes all over the city from Emberton to Browns Wood, Bletchley, Wolverton and Heelands; spreading Christmas cheer with a bumper selection of gifts donated by its waste and recycling partners and Milton Keynes businesses.

Cash for Trash will be back in the New Year and in order to be in with a chance of winning you need to correctly sort all of your recycling into your pink sacks, blue box and green bin. All non-recyclable waste should be placed in black sacks and put out with your recycling; it then needs to be presented on the boundary of your property by 7am on your collection day. Don't pile up your rubbish with other people in your area as this makes it impossible to know who is recycling correctly and who isn't.

Getting it right could mean that Milton Keynes Council together with its partners Serco and Community Waste visiting you bright and early to give you £100 in cash or vouchers.

To find out more about the Cash for Trash scheme, see recent winners and for rules in full, visit www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/cashfortrash

Visit the website for details on how the scheme works and how the council can help you to recycle more. www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/recycle.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from all at Milton Keynes Council Recycling

Winner: Ralph Piacquadio, Bletchley

Winner: Sheila O'Conner, Heelands

Winners: Jackie and Alex Wager, Emberton

Winners: Below, Cathy Lockyer, Ruby and Harry, Brownswood

Winner: Chaz Summers, Wolverton

Congratulations to all of our Cash for Trash winners in 2009

The participation of all of our winners and all the residents of Milton Keynes in our various recycling schemes has resulted in an extra 6000 tonnes being collected this year.
Put another way, by recycling effectively, you have helped to stop 500 double decker buses worth of waste going to landfill. Which is good for the environment and good for everyone.
Makes it worthwhile, doesn't it.

Thank you, Merry Christmas and let's see what we can achieve next year.

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/recycling

recycle for Milton Keynes | serco | MKNEWS | MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

Alzheimer's CD

A LOCAL singer has released his first CD in aid of a dementia research charity.

David Read, 55, from North Crawley, released an album titled 'I know that I should know you' earlier this month.

The CD is an eclectic mix of folk, blues and indie music produced by David's son, Stuart.

All of the proceeds raised will be donated to the Alzheimer's Research Trust.

David explained: "My mother, Janet, died with Alzheimer's in September 2008.

"It crept on over a long period and I watched with a mixture of desperation and sadness as she slowly became another person.

"So, we decided to try and do something to help to beat this dreadful disease.

"We aim to raise over £30,000."

The CD is available from www.iknowthatishouldknowyou.com priced £10, plus £2 postage and packing.

Early in 2010 the website will also feature a video and downloads of David's work.

Ready to wrap: Volunteers at Midsummer Place are offering a charity gift wrapping service in aid of Advantage Africa

All wrapped up for Christmas

DONE the Christmas shopping but can't be bothered to wrap it too – Midsummer Place has an idea.

Volunteers will be providing a gift wrapping service in Midsummer Place shopping centre in the run up to Christmas.

Until Christmas Eve, volunteers will wrap your pressies in exchange for a small donation, with all money raised going to charity, Advantage Africa.

It is hoped that the scheme will raise at least £6,000, which will be used by the charity to help people affected by poverty, disability and AIDS in Kenya and Uganda.

The organisers are still looking for volunteers to help over this period, if interested email Jackie Andrew-Barrett on jackiegiftwrap@btinternet.com or call her on 07732 650397.

Centre manager, Martin Hindson said: "We're pleased to be supporting Advantage Africa once again with this great initiative. It means we can offer our customers another fantastic service in Midsummer Place, whilst helping a very worthwhile cause at the same time."

Cash box snatched

A CASH box was snatched from a security guard in Broughton

Police are appealing for witnesses to the incident at 7.30am on December 16 when a Group4 transit security guard was approached by three men as he was walking towards Budgens in Tanfield Lane.

The group made off in a dark-coloured car which was recovered in Annesley Road, Newport Pagnell.

DS Mark Glover said: "There was a witness at Budgens, who spoke to the security guards and gave them information about the vehicle.

"The witnesses left without leaving any details and I am urgently seeking this person to come forward."

Don't miss our Biggest Ever
Sale
Starts December 26th
With up to 60% OFF and take interest free credit

Discover Milton Keynes's largest display of quality furniture, where everything is reduced by up to 60% in our biggest ever sale.

Best Choice for **Dining & Occasional**

Over 150 dining ranges on Sale now!
Huge range of occasional furniture

Now with up to 60% OFF

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Solid Oak Nest of Tables ~~£299~~ £99
Solid Oak Bookcase ~~£399~~ £199

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Over 1000 items in stock for quick delivery

Now with up to 60% OFF

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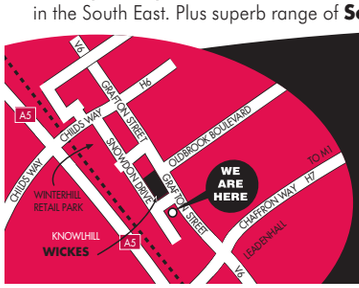
The largest range of **solid wood bedroom furniture** in the South East. Plus superb range of **Sofa Beds**.



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MKNW52

Open over Xmas & New Year*

Mead Open Farm is open from 27-31 December. With Shaggy's PlayWorld, where better to run of their Christmas Energy!

- Shaggy's heated PlayWorld
- Meet cute farm animals
- Whizz about on tractors & go karts
- Outdoor log play adventure
- Tea room, café & gift shop

All activities included £6.50 (child) £7.50 (adult) Under 2's go free

Mead Open Farm, Billington, Nr Leighton Buzzard (follow brown signs from A505 and A4146)
T: 01525 852954 10am-6.30pm (last entry 5.30pm)
www.meadopenfarm.co.uk
* Closed 24-26 Dec and 1 Jan. Closed at 5pm on 31 Dec.

Advertorial

Awards galore at Jaipur

Another win for Milton Keynes top restaurant!

The Jaipur Restaurant is a legend in Milton Keynes for presenting high quality Indian cuisine and great service. The restaurant has won many awards over the years, but significantly in 2009 the restaurant has earned three of the top awards in the UK celebrating fine food and great attention to detail.

Mr Ahad with Sir Trevor McDonald and other guests at the award ceremony.

The restaurant has engaged one of the top chefs in the country, Amardeep Singh Anand who recently won the coveted 'Healthy Heart' Award at the National Finals of the South Asian Chef Competition 2009. This outstanding achievement was earned through competing in the final of South East Asian Chef of the Year competition after winning the regional heat of the competition. He has outstanding culinary skills that have resulted in this top accolade in Asian cuisine.

Just one month later, the Jaipur was one of eleven spice restaurants throughout the UK honoured at the 2009 British Curry Awards, held at London's Battersea Evolution. The Jaipur won the award for the South East region for the first time and was chosen from a record 40,000 public nominations covering more than 2,700 restaurants.

The British Curry Awards are recognised as the 'Oscars' of Britain's £3.5bn spice restaurant industry. The glamorous awards ceremony, hosted by Sir Trevor McDonald, was the first to be attended by a political party leader.

Conservative party leader David Cameron was among the 1,500 guests who saw Jaipur pick up the award as the top curry restaurant in the South East for the first time. Eleven other South East restaurants were highly commended by the judges.

BRITISH Curry Awards 2009

David Cameron told the audience of restaurateurs, diplomats and celebrity guests: "It's a real pleasure to be here at the Oscars of the spice industry. The British curry industry is a great success story. It's shown how people from all backgrounds, with different creeds and cultures, can come together as one. And it's shown exactly what an open-minded, dynamic and enterprising country can achieve."

Mr Ahad, Owner of the Jaipur said," This award is a great recognition of the value we place on the delivery of exceptional Indian cuisine and the high levels of service we strive to maintain for our customers. This award is also further recognition for our Chef Amardeep Singh Anand, who has an exceptional talent and a sensational style in Asian cooking that we are pleased to showcase in Milton Keynes.

JAIPUR

599 Grafton Gate East, Central Milton Keynes MK9 1AT
Tel: 01908 669796 Fax: 01908 694464
www.jaipur.co.uk Email: info@jaipur.co.uk

Closed on Christmas Day, Open Boxing Day 12 Noon - 11pm

MKANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays

Peter Templeman

Happy 65th (23/12/2009)

A tremendous Dad, Grandad and Husband.

Lots of Love from your sons Mark and Neil, Wife Chris and Grandchildren Lucas, Milan and Claudia.

GIUSEPPE GEOFFREY PERCHINELLI

Happy 1st Birthday.
Love Mummy, Daddy & family x

DANIEL GRAY

Our Grandson
Happy 18th Birthday on 23rd December
All our love Nan and Grandad xxx

DANIEL GRAY

Happy 18th Birthday
To our Son on 23rd December
All our love Mum and Dad xxx

LOUISE BRESLIN

Happy 21st Birthday 24th December.

Lots of love Mum, Dad, Sam, Charlotte, David, Niamh, Sorcha and Jonathan xx

SHARON THOMPSON
Happy 40th Birthday for 29th December

Love always from Keith, Mum, Dad, Deborah, Terry& Dino (your dog).

BETHANY ELLIOTT
Is a Teenager 22nd December 2009
Happy 13th Birthday

All our Love Dad, Mum and Harry xxxx

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In Memoriam

BEN INGALL

Happy 21st Birthday on December 28th
With love from Mum and all your family and friends

GIUSEPPE GEOFFREY PERCHINELLI

Happy 1st Birthday.
Love Mummy, Daddy & family x

VINCENT GEORGE MOULDS

29th December 2008

1 Year on, missed so very much

Loved always by Jan, Nigel & Valerie, Sarah & Graham & Grandchildren

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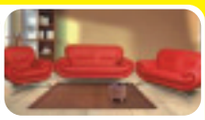

RRP ~~£975.00~~ Disposal price £475.00

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OAK DINING TABLE WITH 6 CHAIRS

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CHROME GLASS DINING TABLE WITH 4 CHAIRS

ABSOLUTE BARGAIN £175.00

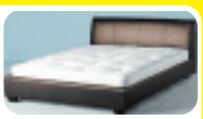
ORTHOPEDIC DOUBLE BED

RRP ~~£299.00~~ DISPOSAL PRICE £175.00

KING SIZE FAUX LEATHER STORAGE BED

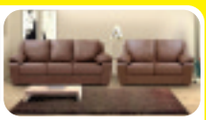
RRP~~£449.00~~ DISPOSAL PRICE £299.00

FAUX LEATHER BED



UNBEATABLE PRICE 4ft 6" double £99.00

LEATHER SOFA SET 3+2 SEATER AVAILABLE IN BLACK & BROWN



RRP ~~£899~~ Disposal price £399.00

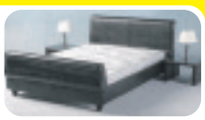
POSTURE PEDIC BACK CARE DOUBLE BED

RRP ~~£499.00~~ Disposal price £235.00

KING SIZE REAL LEATHER SLEIGH BED

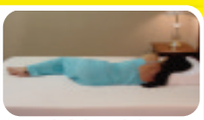
RRP ~~£499.00~~ DISPOSAL PRICE £250.00

SLEIGH BED



RRP ~~£299.00~~ Disposal price £199.00

SUPER MEMORY FOAM MATERESSES



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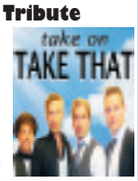
Soul Disco Party with Superstition
Saturday 9th January
£25.00pp

Supreme Soul with Diane Shaw
Friday 15th January
£23.00pp

2010

Queen Tribute with Monarchy
Saturday 16th January
£25.00pp

Take That Tribute
Friday 22nd January
£23.00pp



Chubby Brown Tribute – Thursday Comedy Pie/Sausage & Mash Night Special - £12.00pp
Elvis Tribute with Alvin Printwhistle – Friday 29th January - £23.00pp

All Friday/Saturday nights include a superb hot & cold buffet with a choice of sweets & cheeses, and don't forget the Chocolate Fountain.

The Management reserve the right to change menu or programme without prior notice. E&OE.

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the stables
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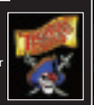
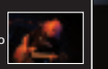
Tuesday 22 December to Saturday 9 January
TREASURE ISLAND
Join young Jim Hawkins on a thrilling quest for buried treasure this Christmas! A treat for hearty pirates aged 7 to 107!
Call Box Office for show times & ticket prices



Saturday 16 January 8pm
THE GROUNDHOGS & STRAY
Unsung heroes of British rock and blues who still really deliver the goods live!
Tickets £15



Thursday 21 January 8pm
C'MON EVERYBODY
Hear the hits of Eddie Cochran, Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, Billy Haley and Jerry Lee lewis in this fun-filled rock'n'roll party.
Tickets £16.50

Friday 22 January 8pm
SYD LAWRENCE ORCHESTRA
An evening of the big band sounds of Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman, Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald.
Tickets £19.50, £21.50

Saturday 23 January 8pm
ELIO PACE IN CONCERT
Singer & pianist Elio joins us with his full band – hear his Christmas single What A Day on Radio 2's playlist now!
Tickets £16.50

01908 280800
Booking fee of £2.50 per transaction applies to all telephone sales

New Years Eve Bollywood Ball

THURSDAY 31st DEC. 2009

Dinner & Dance with Live DJ
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Limited Seats, Book Early!

Christmas Day Lunch
4 Course Menu
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MALLORY 3 seater leather sofa
Was ~~£998~~ Sale ~~£749~~
SAVE DOUBLE £499

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Doors Open 9am Boxing Day!

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£299 Was ~~£599~~ Sale ~~£449~~

The Nolan 3 seater sofa, in a choice of colours at no extra cost. Matching 2 seater sofa, **sofabed**, choice of chairs and storage footstool all with **double savings** too.

4 YEARS INTEREST FREE CREDIT WITH NOTHING TO PAY FOR THE FIRST YEAR

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TYPICAL **0% APR**

The Nolan 3 seater sofa £299. Or take 4 years interest free credit with nothing to pay for the first year. No deposit and 36 equal monthly payments of £8.30 starting 12 months from date of order. Total £299. 0% APR. Credit subject to acceptance. Redhouse Interchange, Doncaster DN6 7NA. DFS may alter or extend promotions at any time. *Mobile charges may apply when calling 0800 110 5000.

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Advertorial

TAYLORS
Estate Agents

L-R: Devin Hipkin, Negotiator at Taylors, Wing YiP Propertywide competition winner, Matthew Hewitt, Director of propertywide.co.uk

Local estate agents bring Christmas cheer to local home buyer

Record viewings and house sales for Milton Keynes property market

Growing buyer confidence has enabled leading local agents Taylors and Wilson Peacock to take part in the UK's largest Open House Weekend, attracting a record volume of viewings in Milton Keynes during December.

The UK-wide event saw more than 11,000 homeowners open their doors throughout the UK, which was held on 5th and 6th December, and more than 160 offers were made on Open House properties in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire.

Vanessa Hill, Senior Branch Taylors in Central Milton Keynes, said: "The Open House Weekend was a tremendous success and enabled thousands of sellers to agree sales before Christmas. It has exceeded expectations and we anticipate that this demand will continue to outstrip supply over the coming months."

To celebrate the success of Open House and Taylors' new online partnership with Propertywide.co.uk, one lucky home mover collected a luxury Harrods Christmas Hamper.

Wing Yip, a home seeker from Northampton looking to relocate to Milton Keynes, was selected from hundreds of new Propertywide members to win a festive hamper packed with luxury festive items.

Wing signed up with Taylors in Central Milton Keynes while searching for her new home and joined Propertywide after Taylors and Wilson Peacock became one of the first agents in Milton Keynes to sign up with Propertywide, which offers a complete home moving service and takes live property feeds from the UK's top estate and letting agents.

Visit www.propertywide.co.uk to see the latest listings in Milton Keynes. With its cutting edge technology, the website offers interactive maps with satellite, aerial and birds eye view images of locations, all of which can be saved in a unique member area. To buy or sell a property through an award winning agent, contact Taylors CMK on 01908 678151.

DECEMBER MADNESS
Cut out and keep!
Offer ends 31/12/09

★ 50% OFF ALL SERVICES
(over £20)

(Not to be used in conjunction with any other offers)
Late Nights available, appointments not necessary
Toni & Guy trained
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32a Aylesbury Street, Fenny Stratford, Milton Keynes. MK2 2BD
HOT HEADS

Christmas Day Service - 10 am

Sunday 27th December
Services 10.15 am & 12 noon

New Years Eve Celebration
10.15 pm

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Milton Keynes

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2	HAWAIIAN Pineapple & Turkey	9.50	12.50	15.50
3	PEPPERONI FEAST Onion, Muchrooms & Pepperoni	9.50	12.50	15.50
4	OCEAN FEAST Tuna, Prawns, Anchovies & Tomatos	9.50	12.50	15.50
5	CHICKEN FEAST BBQ Sauce, Plain Chicken, Mushrooms & Peppers	9.50	12.50	15.50
6	AMERICANA Onion, Pepperoni, Beef, Green Chillies & Peppers	9.50	12.50	15.50
7	MEXICANA Chicken Tikka, Jalepenos, Peppers, & Pineapple	9.50	12.50	15.50
8	TASTY VEGGIE Onion, Mushroom, Sweetcorn, Peppers, Olives & Tomatos	9.50	12.50	15.50
9	MEAT FEAST Beef, Pepperoni, Turkey & Chicken Tikka	9.50	12.50	15.50
10	TASTY SPECIAL Onion, Chiken, Green Chillies, Peppers & Tomatoes	10.00	13.00	16.00
11	TASTY FULL HOUSE Beef, Pepperoni, Peppers, Sweetcorn, Onion & Turkey	10.50	13.50	16.50
12	FREE CHOICE Choose 4 Toppings - Choose a Base from Tomato, BBQ, Garlic Mayo & Chilli	10.50	13.50	16.50
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Spicy Chicken Donner	£4.50
Lamb Dinner	£4.50
Donner Meat & Chips	£3.40
Mix Donner Chicken & Lamb	£5.80
Kebab Roll	£3.20
Chicken Tikka Roll & Lamb Tikka	£4.50
Veg/Salad Roll	£2.50

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Goat Feet	£6.00
Tandoori Lamb Chop Masala	£6.00
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Deasi Murgha on Bones	£7.50
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Keema Curry	£5.00
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A CRB check is required for this post.

For informal enquiries, please contact Kirsty Brice, Centre Manager, on 01908 679932.

Learning Mentor

£17,802 - £21,519 **Ref: 50017307/MKN**
term time only including 5 INSET days
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Providing additional and complimentary support to the Centre teaching team, you will work with individual students who are unable to attend mainstream school to remove barriers to learning. With excellent numeracy, literacy and communication skills, you will have the ability to relate to and motivate young people.

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For informal enquiries, please contact Kirsty Brice, Centre Manager, on 01908 679932.

Inclusive Education Co-ordinator

£17,802 - £21,519 **Ref: 50017310/MKN**
Full time – term time only including 5 INSET days
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Closing date for all posts: 8 January 2010.

Interview date for all posts: 21 January 2010.

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Notice of application for a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that The Open University has applied to the LICENSING AUTHORITY AT MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL for a PREMISES LICENCE at WALTON HALL, MILTON KEYNES, MK7 6AA

The following licensable activities are proposed during the following times: Plays : Films : Indoor Sporting Events : Live Music : Recorded Music : Performances of dance : Dancing : Supply of Alcohol between 9am and 2am every day of the year.

Full details of the application can be viewed via The Licensing Register at the Civic Offices of the Council. This is accessible Mondays to Thursdays between the hours of 9am to 5pm and Fridays 9am to 4pm (excluding bank Holidays) or online at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/licensing

Any interested party (such as a resident or local business) or responsible authority wishing to make representations either against or in support of the application must do so in writing by: Thursday 13th January 2010

To the following address:
LICENSING TEAM, ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL, CIVIC OFFICES
1 SAXON GATE EAST, MILTON KEYNES MK9 3EJ
01908 252800 E-mail: licensing@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Representations received in response to this review will ordinarily be made available for public inspection, including disclosure to the applicant and any relevant responsible authorities unless agreed otherwise. Representations must relate to one or more of the licensing objectives (namely crime and disorder, public nuisance, public safety, or protection of children from harm). Individuals making a representation must live in the vicinity of the premise.

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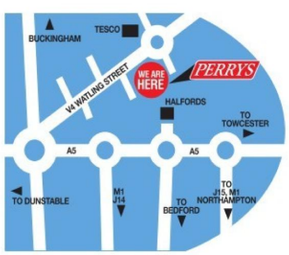

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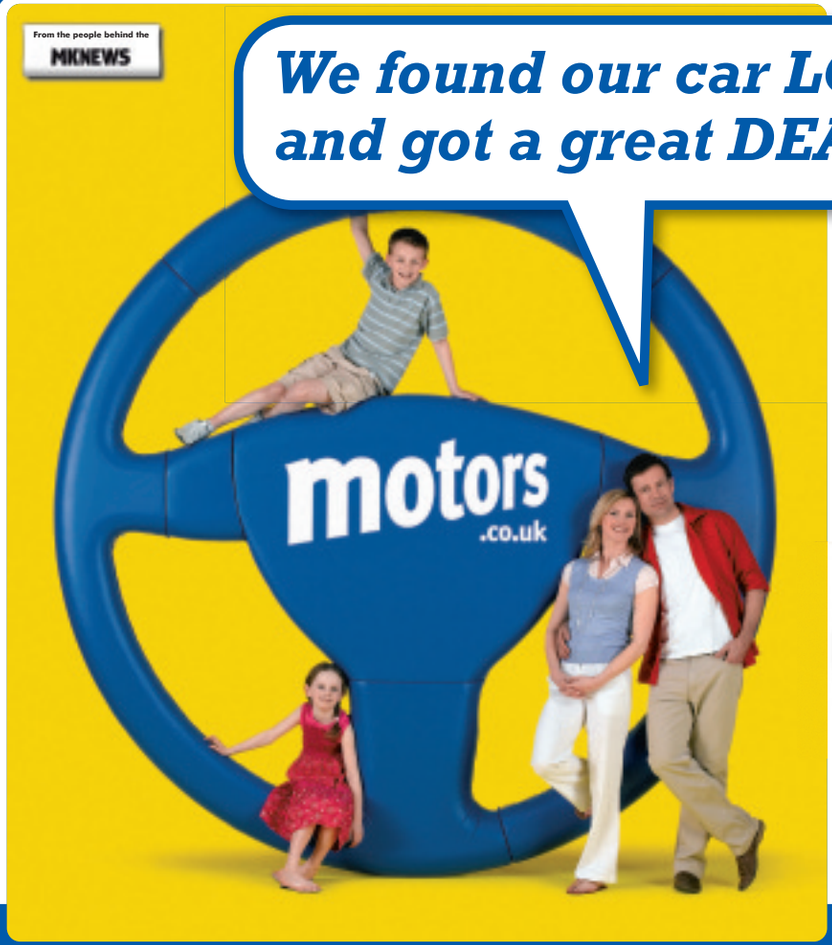

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"So, if you are thinking of replacing your old car in time for the New Year, get down to Perrys for the start of our Big Sale on the 28th December, or for those who can't wait till then we will be holding a special preview day in anticipation of the massive reductions on the 27th December," continued Stephen.

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01 (Y)	**PUMA 1.7,** met silver, 2 owners,, PAS, e/w, c/l, alloys, CD, MoT, vgc	£2,495
98 (R)	**PUMA 1.7, 3dr,** met dark blue, 87k, history, 2 owners, PAS, e/w, c/l, alloys, CD, MoT, vgc	£1,595
04 (54)	**FOCUS 1.4 CL,** 5 dr, met black, 2 owners, FSH, 65k, e/w, c/l, alloys, CD, MoT, tax, VGC	£3,995
00 (X)	**FOCUS ZETEC 1.6 5dr,** met blue, 2 owners, PAS, e/w, c/l, alloys, CD, MoT, vgc	£1,995
04 (54)	**FIESTA FLAME ZETEC 1.4 3dr,** silver, 1 owner, 40k, PAS, e/w, c/l, alloys, CD, MoT	£3,695
02 (52)	**FIESTA ZETEC 1.4 5dr,** met silver, 2 owners, 54k, history, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, CD, MoT, vgc	£2,995
01 (51)	**FIESTA FREESTYLE ZETEC 1.25 3dr,** met green, 2 owners, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, alloys, MoT, vgc	£1,995
01 (Y)	**FIESTA FREESTYLE ZETEC 1.25,** 3 dr, met red, PAS, s/r, alloys, MoT, VGC	£1,595
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02 (52)	**KA 1.3 1.3 3dr,** met blue, 2 owners, 55k, PAS, stereo, MoT, Tax, vgc	£1,995
01 (51)	**KA COLLECTION 1.3 3dr,** met green, 2 owners, PAS, e/w, c/l, alloys, stereo, MoT, vgc	£1,995
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99 (S)	**ASTRA 1.6 8V 5dr,** red, PAS, e/w, c/l, stereo, MoT, tax, vgc	£1,195
00 (X)	**TIGRA 1.4,** met silver, 2 owners, 53k, PAS, e/w, c/l, alloys, CD, MoT, vgc	£1,895
01 (51)	**CORSA 1.2 16v 3dr,** blue, 2 owners, 62k, PAS, c/l, alloys, CD, MOT, vgc	£2,195
01 (Y)	**CORSA 1.0 3dr,** blue, 2 owners, 49k, FSH, PAS, c/l, stereo, MOT, vgc	£1,995
01 (Y)	**CORSA 1.0 GLS 5dr,** met silver, 2 lady owners, 71k, PAS, CD, MoT, VGC	£1,895
03 (53)	**ROVER 25 1.4 3dr,** met blue, 1 owner, 39k, history, PAS, e/w, c/l, leather, CD, MoT, vgc	£2,195
01 (Y)	**PEUGEOT 306 MERIDIAN 1.6 5dr,** met midnight blue, 2 owners, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, alloys, half leather, CD, MoT, vgc	£1,995
01 (51)	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 GLX 3dr,** black, 1 owner, history, PAS, e/w, c/l,a/c, stereo, MoT, vgc	£1,995
99 (T)	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LX,** silver, 51k, 2 owners, history, PAS, e/w, c/l, e/sr, stereo, MoT, vgc	£1,695
00 (X)	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LX, 3dr,** red, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, stereo, MoT, vgc	£1,495
00 (W)	**PEUGEOT 206 1.1L 3dr,** red, PAS, stereo, MoT, tax	£1,295
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03 (53)	**CLIO 1.2 16v DYNAMIQUE,** 3 dr, met black, 57k, 2 owners, PAS, e/w, c/l, s/r, alloys, CD, MoT, VGC	£2,995
00 (X)	**CLIO 1.4 S 3dr,** met silver, 69k, 2 owners, PAS, e/w,c/l, s/r, alloys, CD immac	£1,995
00 (X)	**CLIO 1.2 RN GRANDE,** met blue, 72k, history, PAS, e/w, c/l, s/r, stereo, MoT, vgc	£1,595
00 (W)	**CLIO 1.2 RN GRANDE 3dr,** white, 69k, 2 ownes, PAS, e/w, c/l, s/r, stereo, MoT, vgc	£1,595
99 (T)	**CLIO 1.2 GRANDE 5dr,** met bronze, PAS, s/r, stereo, MoT, vgc	£1,295
01 (Y)	**CITROEN XSARA 1.4 5dr,** met blue, 2 owners, 71k, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, CD, MoT, VGC	£1,495
02 (52)	**CITROEN C3 5dr** 1.4 LX, met silver, 2 owners, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, alloys, CD, MoT, vgc	£2,595
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01 (Y)	**FIAT BRAVO 1.6 SX,** 3dr, red, 43k, 2 owners, PAS, e/w, c/l, e/sr, stereo, MoT, vgc	£1,295
01 (51)	**FIAT BRAVA 1. 6 SX 5dr,** met red, 2 owners, PAS, e/w, c/l, e/sr, stereo, MoT, vgc	£1,295
01 (Y)	**PUNTO 1.2 ELX 3dr,** met blue, 57k, PAS, e/w, c/l, alloys, CD, MoT, vgc	£1,495
99 (V)	**TOYOTA COROLLA SE 5dr,** red, history, e/w, c/l, a/c, stereo, MoT, vgc	£1,495
03 (53)	**KIA RIO 1.3 L 5dr,** met silver, 65k, history, PAS, c/l, CD, MoT, tax, vgc	£1,695
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00 (X)	**DAEWOO MATIZ 800cc,** blue, 62k, PAS, stereo, new MoT, vgc	£995
00 (W)	**CITROEN XSARA 1.4 LX 5dr,** met green, PAS, e/w, c/l, e/sr, MoT, vgc	£995
99 (T)	**MITSIBUSHI CHARISMA 4dr,** white, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, stereo, new MoT, vgc	£795
99 (T)	**FIESTA ZETEC 1.25,** silver, PAS, a/c, stereo, MoT, VGC	£995
99 (S)	**ASTRA 1.6 LS 5dr,** met blue, PAS, c/l, stereo, MoT, vgc	£995
99 (V)	**PUNTO DIESEL,** 3 dr, met gold, 69k, pas, STEREO, Mot, Tax, vgc	£995
00 (W)	**FIAT SEICENTO 900cc 3dr,** red, 53k, 2 owners, PAS, stereo, new MoT, vgc	£995
98 (S)	**VECTRA 2.0 GLS 5dr,** met black, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, ABS, alloys, stereo, MoT, tax	£595
95 (M)	**ASTRA ESTATE DIESEL,** red, s/r, stereo, new MoT	£495
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99 (V)	**ZAFIRA DIESEL 2.0 DTI 7 SEATER,** met blue, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, CD, MoT, vgc	£1,995
02 (52)	**CITROEN XSARA PICASSO SX,** met blue, 2 owners, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, CD, MoT, VGC	£2,495
01 (Y)	**CITROEN ZSARA PICASSO 1.8 SX,** met silver, 2 owners, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, stereo, MoT, vgc	£2,195
01 (Y)	**CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.8 SX,** met black, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, CD, MoT, vgc	£1,795
99 (T)	**FOCUS ESTATE 1.6 ZETEC,** met green, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, alloys, new MoT	£1,295
00 (W)	**VECTRA ESTATE 2.0 GLS,** met green, black leather, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, CD, MoT, vgc	£1,495
03 (53)	**KIA RIO 1.3 L 5dr,** met silver, 65k, history, PAS, c/l, CD, MoT, tax, vgc	£1,695
99 (S)	**ASTRA ESTATE 1.8 CD AUTO,** silver, PAs, E/W, c/l, a/c, alloys, stereo, MoT, vgc	£1,195
98 (R)	**AUDI A4 1.8 ESTATE,** met green, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, alloys, stereo, MoT tax	£995
95 (M)	**ASTRA ESTATE DIESEL,** red, s/r, stereo, New MoT	£595
	DIESELS	
99 (V)	**ZAFIRA DIESEL 2.0 DTI 7 Seater,** met blue, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, alloys, MoT, vgc	£1,995
99 (V)	**PUNTO DIESEL,** 3dr, met gold, 69k, PAS, stereo, MoT, tax, vgc	£995
95 (M)	**ASTRA ESTATE DIESEL,** red, s/r, stereo, new MoT	£595
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00 (W)	**ESCORT DIESEL VAN,** white, 1.8, PAS, stereo, new MoT	£995
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99 (S)	**ASTRA 1.8 CD ESTATE,** silver, Auto, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, alloys, stereo, MoT, tax	£1,195

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06 (06)	**Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr Hatch,** Silver, Alloys, Air Con, Front Fogs	£7,250
06 (06)	**Focus 1.6 Lx 5dr Hatch,** Silver, Air Con, Heated Screen, Electric Windows	£6,795
04 (04)	**Focus 2.0 Zetec 3dr Hatch,** Blue, Air Con, Alloys, Remote Central Locking	£4,495
02 (02)	**Focus 1.8 Zetec 5dr Hatch,** Silver, Air Con, Alloys, CD	£3,695
05 (05)	**C-Max 1.6 Zetec 5dr MPV,** Silver, Air Con, Alloys, Fogs	£4,850
09 (09)	**Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5dr,** Black, Alloys, Air Con, Heated Screen	£11,495
06 (56)	**Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 5dr Hatch,** Blue, Alloys, Air Con, Fogs	£6,695
06 (06)	**Street Ka 1.6 3dr Convertible,** Silver, Leather Trim, Alloys, Air Con	£7,250
08 (58)	**Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3dr Hatch,** Silver, Air Con, Alloys, CD	£6,495
04 (04)	**Ka 1.3 Luxury 3dr Hatch,** Silver, Leather Trim, Alloys, Air Con, CD	£3,995
05 (05)	**Ka 1.3 3dr Hatch,** Silver, CD Player, Colour Coded Bumpers	£3,475
05 (05)	**Ka 1.3 3dr Hatch,** Black, CD Player	£3,475

OTHER MAKES		PRICE
06 (56)	**Toyota Avensis 1.8 5dr Hatch,** Silver, Climate Control, Alloys, CD	£8,600
07 (57)	**Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Breeze, 5dr Hatch,** Silver, Alloys, Fogs	£7,995
04 (04)	**Mini One 1.6 3dr Hatch,** Silver, Air Con, Power Steering, Electric Windows	£6,995

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Luke Chadwick is denied by Brentford's Danny Foster

Missed chances

MK DONS 0 **BRENTFORD 1**
MacDonald 87

BY SIMONE CORGAN
simone.corgan@mk-news.co.uk

MK Dons had every right to feel robbed of three points by Brentford.

The Bees mustered two shots at goal and still walked away from stadiummk as victors.

Charlie MacDonald may have been wearing red and white but when he struck past Willy Gueret three minutes from time he took on the appearance of the Grinch who stole Christmas.

Yet, the Dons only really had themselves to blame for surrendering the points as chance upon chance went begging in this one-sided game.

For a brief spell in the first half Brentford showed promise and intent to attack through highly rated Spurs youngster John Bostock. But when hefaded so too did the Bees' attempts to push forward, instead they used their 4-5-1 formation to try and out muscle the Dons in midfield.

The chances then began to flow for the Dons, Jermaine Easter shot straight into Wojciech Szczesny's arms after holding off Pim Balkestein's attempt to challenge and Luke Chadwick sent an effort wide.

On the stroke of half-time Szczesny's brilliant double save denied Easter who was left wondering how his close range tap-in to Aaron Wilbraham's cross had not found the net.

Striker Wilbraham also had opportunities to break the deadlock in a dominant Dons performance.

He was put through by Jason Puncheon but picked the wrong option and hit into Szczesny's body.

Moments later he thought he had made up for the error when his far post hit header the underside of the bar and bounced down onto the line.

Puncheon's follow-up effortwas then cleared off the line.

Six minutes from time Brentford registered their first shot when Balkestein connected with David Hunt's free-kick but it was a comfortable collection for Willy Gueret.

Unlike the Dons, Brentford only needed one more chance to grab a late win. MacDonald eased his way into the box, with an earlier injury leaving Danny Woodards stranded out of position, to latch on to Marcus Bean's ball and chip Gueret.

Dons assistant manager Karl Robinson found it hard to comprehend how his team had been defeated in a game they bossed from the start.

He said: "I think the only thing that went wrong was them scoring because our performance was fantastic, but if you don't take your chances you're always liable to concede.

"We can't make excuses for the chances we missed today, at this level you've got to take them.

"For the first time I'm sort of lost for words. It's hard to understand, when the lads have played so well, that we've not won."

MK DONS: Gueret, Lewington (c), Doumbe, McCracken, Easter, Wilbraham, Puncheon, Howell (Woodards 59), Leven, Chadwick (Gobern 75), Quashie (Powell 90). Booked: Howell, Wilbraham, Leven

BRENTFORD: Szczesny, O'Connor (c), Dickson (Wood 81), Bean, MacDonald, Hunt, Foster, Bostock (Weston 62), Strevens, Balkestein, Legge. Booked: Strevens

Referee: Andy Pennn (West Midlands)
Attendance: 9,520 (881 away)

LEAGUE ONE TABLE

		HOME					AWAY						
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Leeds United	21	8	3	0	22	6	7	2	1	16	4	28	50
2	Charlton	22	8	3	0	26	12	5	4	2	17	12	19	46
3	Norwich	22	8	2	1	29	13	4	4	3	19	14	21	42
4	Colchester	21	8	1	1	18	7	3	5	3	17	12	16	39
5	Huddersfield	22	8	3	0	33	8	2	2	7	12	20	17	35
6	Swindon	20	5	4	1	13	10	4	3	3	13	16	0	34
7	Bristol Rovers	22	7	1	3	16	12	4	0	7	16	22	-2	34
8	Millwall	22	7	3	1	20	9	1	6	4	13	17	7	33
9	MK Dons	22	5	2	4	16	14	5	1	5	13	17	-2	33
10	Walsall	22	4	5	2	19	13	4	2	5	13	16	3	31
11	Hartlepool	22	4	3	4	12	11	3	3	5	17	18	0	27
12	Carlisle	21	5	1	5	14	13	2	5	3	14	17	-2	27
13	Southend	22	5	3	3	14	13	2	2	7	11	16	-4	26
14	Brentford	22	4	5	2	14	12	2	3	6	6	13	-5	26
15	Southampton	22	5	4	2	20	12	4	4	3	18	14	12	25
16	Gillingham	22	7	3	1	20	6	0	1	10	8	26	-4	25
17	Yeovil	22	4	5	2	20	16	1	5	5	8	16	-4	25
18	Exeter	22	4	5	2	15	10	2	2	7	9	21	-7	25
19	Oldham	22	3	4	4	11	14	3	3	5	8	13	-8	25
20	Leyton Orient	22	4	3	4	16	15	2	2	7	11	24	-12	23
21	Brighton	22	2	1	8	11	21	3	4	4	14	20	-16	20
22	Tranmere	22	5	1	5	15	17	1	1	9	6	26	-22	20
23	Wycombe	22	3	3	5	11	13	1	3	7	11	23	-14	18
24	Stockport	21	1	2	7	9	22	2	3	6	9	17	-21	14

COMING UP

STOCKPORT COUNTY
League One
Saturday, December 26
stadiummk KO 3pm

FOR the first time in five years MK Dons will play their Boxing Day fixture at home.

The Dons have won four of their last ten matches, and three of those were in cup competitions, however they are only one point off the play-offs.

If Dons fans thought their luck has been out of late, they only need to look at County to see real trouble.

Stockport remain in administration, their training ground has been put up for sale and they are rooted to the bottom of the table. County are without the suspended Carl Baker while Dons welcome back Stephen Gleeson.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
League One
Monday, December 28
Galpharm Stadium KO 3pm

THE festive fixture calendar has handed the Dons a trip to the League's big spenders – unfortunately for Paul Ince's side they also happen to be the League's top goal scorers.

Huddersfield have racked up an incredible 33 goals at the Galpharm and only conceded eight.

It is a record that has helped them stay unbeaten at home.

When the teams met back in September Huddersfield emerged victors by the odd goal in five.

That day the Terriers twice came from behind with Jordan Rhodes, Theo Robinson and Anthony Kay scoring.

Playing Santa to poorly kids

MK Dons players took on the role of Santa Clause when they visited the children's ward at Milton Keynes General Hospital last week.

Dons captain Dean Lewington took several members of the squad along to the ward to bring some festive cheer to the youngsters.

The first team dug deep to raise a collection and Aaron Wilbraham, Darren Powell, Jason Puncheon, Jemal Johnson, Jermaine Easter and David McCracken were all on hand to deliver the gifts.

VIDEO

Log on to www.mk-news.co.uk to watch Paul Mitchell's MK NEWS video blog to see how the visit went.

Christmas No1

ICE HOCKEY

MK Lightning have secured a Christmas number one.

The Milton Keynes ice hockey side recorded back-to-back wins at the weekend to ensure they sit top of the English Premier League over Christmas.

Lightning beat their local rivals Peterborough Phantoms 5-3 on their own patch, then recorded a 6-3 win over Basingstoke Bison at Planet Ice.

It took Lightning just over seven minutes to break the deadlock against the Phantoms with Adam Carr finding the opener on the power play.

Less than a minute later Ross Bowers doubled the advantage when Leigh Jamieson put him through to goal on yet another power play.

Phantoms were struggling against a fast skating Lightning side and quickly fell three goals behind.

On 10.41 Michael Wales was set up for a short-handed goal by Lukas Zatopek.

The Phantoms did manage to claw their way back with two goals in seven minutes from Brent Gough.

His quick brace pulled Peterborough back into the game but Adam Carr restored Lightning's two goal advantage which they carried into the final period.

Peterborough refused to roll over and showed plenty of fighting spirit with Doug McIver grabbing a goal back on 50.44.

However Lightning's strength in depth told late on with Carr striking into an empty net 30 seconds from time to complete the victory.

The following day Kalgoum was the man who opened the scoring for Lightning at home to Basingstoke.

And his goal on 6.35 was an equaliser after Basingstoke opened the lead a minute earlier.

Both sides continued to exchange scores with Carr posting Lightning back in front before Steve Moria levelled and Tom Long handed Basingstoke the lead.

But that was the end of the goals for the visitors whereas Lightning were able to add four more.

Two came from Ross Bowers while Matt Towalski and Monir Kalgoum struck to keep Lightning at the top of the table.

■ Lightning are not back in action until January, 2.

BASKETBALL

Last-day drama for Lions

MK LIONS 98
Harrison 25, Williams 16, Holmes 15

GUILDFORD HEAT 97
Martin 28, Joseph 22, Langhorne 21

MK Lions ended their 11-year stay at Bletchley Leisure Centre with a dramatic one point victory over Guildford Heat.

The Lions are set to move to thecentre:mk in the New Year for their home games and they signed off in style after blowing an 18 point half lead only to fight back in the final minute to snatch the victory on Robert Youngblood's free throw.

Michael New scored six points in the opening quarter as Lions led 26-18 after ten minutes. Ten from Dru Spinks in the second period helped his team to a 58- 36 half time advantage.

After the break though it was all Heat as runs of 12-4 and 10-4 brought them back to 63-57. Yorick Williams and Frank Holmes combined for six points for Lions, but a 9-2 burst by Guildford saw them trail by just three heading into the final stanza.

Heat went ahead on a Mike Martin three at 74-75 and they backed that up with a further five unanswered points. Lions responded with a 7-0 run to re-take the lead at 81-80 but they couldn't sustain it and were down 89-96 in the last minute.

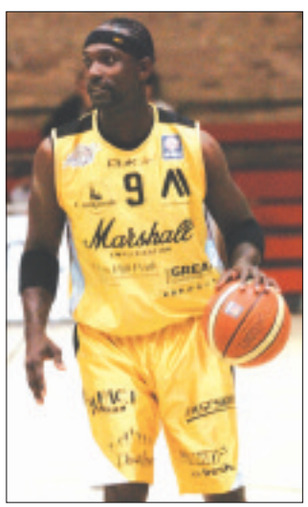
Williams' three began the revival and the same player calmly sank three free throws to tie the match at 97-97 with six seconds remaining.

On the next possession Martin fouled Youngblood and after missing the first free throw the veteran drained the second to secure a memorable victory for a happy Vince Macaulay.

The Lions coach said: "The belief of the players pulled the game out of the bag. I'm delighted we gave the old place a good send off."

The Lions' fixture with London Capital on Sunday was postponed due to a health and safety issue at the Capital City Academy.

Macaulay's men now have a three week break over the festive period, and they will restart their BBL campaign at thecentre:mk on Tuesday, January 12.



Robert Youngblood hit a last-minute winner in the Lion's last match at Bletchley Leisure Centre

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Lions leave Bletchley with last-gasp winner – page 51

Renault to stay with Red Bull

RED Bull Racing have received a huge boost, by one of their biggest rivals, ahead of the 2010 season.

Renault has confirmed that it will continue to supply engines to Red Bull Racing in 2010, extending the successful partnership that has been in place since 2007.

The agreement means Red Bull Racing will use identical engines to those used by the Renault F1 Team throughout the 2010 season.

Renault F1 Team President, Bernard Rey, said: "We can confirm that our productive partnership with Red Bull Racing will continue in 2010.

"The close relationship between Renault and Red Bull Racing has grown since 2007 and this year it resulted in six victories and second place in the 2009 Constructors' Championship. Together we believe that we can build on this success and contribute to Red Bull Racing's future endeavours."

Christian Horner, Red Bull Racing Team Principal, added: "2009 has been Red Bull Racing's finest season to date. In one year, we've achieved six wins and four one-two finishes, none of which would have been possible without the excellent support and assistance we have received from our partners at Renault.

"We are extremely happy with the way they work with us and are looking forward to continuing our fruitful partnership with Renault in 2010."

Fans hold key to changing fortune

BY SIMONE CORGAN

simone.corgan@mk-news.co.uk

AARON Wilbraham admits MK Dons are fortunate to still be in reach of the play-offs.

Two months of poor results for the Dons has seen them fall to ninth in the League One table after five defeats and only four points picked up, although they have also won four cup ties.

Despite that run the Dons are only one point away from finding their way back into the play-off mix and Wilbraham says the club need to return to sixth as soon as possible starting with a win at home to Stockport County on Boxing Day.

The striker told MK NEWS: "We've had a bit of a sticky patch, we got two wins and we were looking to build on that against Brentford but we've had a bit of a set back.

"When you've played so well it's not really going to knock the confidence because we know we played well and we were unlucky so we just have to get back to winning ways.

"It's been a frustrating time but we've got to stick together and get on with it.

"We're still in the pack and we have to make sure we stay there, over the Christmas period we have to pick up points. We know we're capable of going on a good run so we have to start doing that."

Wilbraham knows better than most how important it is to turn the Dons' form quickly, as he felt the Cowshed's anger during the win over Exeter in the FA Cup when he was booed off during a substitution.

Since then the former Stockport-front man has returned to the starting eleven and another wonder strike against Hereford, his four goal of the season, helped the Dons set up a Johnstone's Paint Trophy area final with Southampton.

Jason Puncheon gets off a shot against Brentford

But Wilbraham doesn't blame the fans for voicing their displeasure at his, or the team's, performances.

He added: "When the team's not winning games the fans pay their money and can have their opinions. But since I've been here the fans have always been good with all the players.

"They're always cheering even when we've gone a goal behind and over the years that is what has got us back into games – the fans still support us when times are bad, and we want them to keep doing that but everyone's entitled to their opinion."

The Dons' first Boxing Day fixture is set to go ahead despite the winter weather, and Wilbraham is looking forward to having a relatively normal Christmas with his family.

"For the past three years when I've been here it's been a mad rush seeing family and then shooting off to stay in a hotel on Christmas night so it will be nice to stay at the home with the family this year and wake up in your own house on Boxing Day.

"You try to enjoy the time with your family but obviously concentrate on the football as well."

Dons fans will be hoping Wilbraham can give them a belated present in the style of three points on Saturday.

MKSPORTSSHORTS

Weather wrecker

THE weather caused havoc to the sporting fixtures over the weekend.

Bletchley travelled to Salisbury only for their match to be postponed due to a frozen pitch, and Olney also made a wasted journey to Swanage.

Olney's match has been re-arranged for Saturday, January 2.

In football's United Counties Premier League Newport Pagnell v Blackstones was postponed.

Praise from Jonny

RUGBY legend Jonny Wilkinson has praised a MK teenager after he was selected to attend a national camp for highly talented young athletes.

Wheelchair basketball player Emmanuel Filson was among 130 aspiring Olympians, Paralypians and World Cup hopefuls in eight sports at the fourth National Talent Orientation Camp, run by the Youth Sport Trust in the New Yea.

The 17-year-old pupil from Milton Keynes College was one of four youngsters from Buckinghamshire to be selected.

Wilkinson, 2003 Rugby World Cup winner and patron of the Youth Sport Trust, hailed the Camp at Loughborough University as an important stepping stone for Britain's future talent as they prepare for the personal, sporting, academic and vocational challenges that lie ahead.

Wilkinson said: "To be selected for the Youth Sport Trust National Talent Orientation Camp shows that these four young athletes are already demonstrating real promise and I wish them continued success."

The four-day Camp blends cross-sport training sessions and competition with motivational workshops delivered by past and present Olympic and Paralympic medallists, while the youngsters will also learn from a variety of scenarios that occur in the life of an elite performer.

Over the sticks at Towcester

A DAY of racing is on the cards for Boxing Day, if the weather improves.

Towcester Racecourse is scheduled to host it's traditional meeting on Saturday but the frosty weather could force a cancellation. Keep up to date with developments at www.mk-news.co.uk

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